



PLANNING **Raleigh** 2030

A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Raleigh Fun Facts

- Raleigh is one of two planned capital cities on the East Coast. The other is Washington, D.C.
- The first streetcar system opened along Fayetteville Street on Christmas Day, 1886. Originally pulled by mules, the system would become electrified in 1891.
- Former NBA and college basketball star “Pistol” Pete Maravich attended Raleigh’s Broughton High School in the 1960s.
- As of 2006, 45 percent of Raleigh’s population age 25 and over had a bachelor’s degree or higher. Nationally, 27 percent of the population had a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- The first IBM installation in Raleigh opened in 1965.
- The Carolina Hurricanes of the National Hockey League were the first North Carolina-based team to win a major professional championship when they captured the Stanley Cup in 2006.
- Cameron Village opened in 1949 as the Southeast’s first shopping center.
- The Governor’s Palace was located at the present site of Memorial Auditorium until after the Civil War. Union General William Sherman stayed at the Palace during his occupation of Raleigh in April 1865.
- The first parking meters were installed on Fayetteville Street during October of 1939.
- The 1830 U.S. Census has been the only one to report a decline in Raleigh’s population for the preceding 10 years. Raleigh’s population was 2,674 in 1820, but declined to 1,700 in 1830.
- Raleigh was named after Sir Walter Raleigh, a 16th century Englishman who sent the 1st English colonists to North Carolina..

- North Hills opened as Raleigh's first enclosed mall on August 17, 1967.
- The original state capital building, located on Union Square, was destroyed by a fire in 1831.
- Raleigh had the state's first electric lights in December 1885.
- The Raleigh Capitals baseball team of the Piedmont League played at League Park off New Bern Avenue from 1920 to 1932. The team featured future big-leaguers such as Hank Greenberg and Buck Newsom.
- When the 4-story Briggs Hardware Building opened in 1874, it was known as the tallest building in eastern North Carolina and Raleigh's first skyscraper.
- The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), an influential organization in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, was formed in Raleigh at a conference attended by Martin Luther King Jr. at Shaw University in April 1960.
- The first state art museum in the country is located in Raleigh.
- Raleigh became the state capital in 1795 with John Haywood as the city's first mayor.
- Raleigh is known as the "City of Oaks" for its many oak trees, though pine trees are the dominant species.
- It is the 50th largest city in the United States.
- Raleigh is one of the few cities in the U.S. planned and built specifically to serve as a state capital and its original boundaries were North St, East St, West St and South St.
- The NHL's Carolina Hurricanes franchise moved to Raleigh in 1997 from Hartford, Connecticut (where it was known as the Hartford Whalers), although the first two seasons were played in Greensboro, North Carolina, while the arena built for the Hurricanes, the Raleigh Entertainment and Sports Arena, now known as the RBC Center, was built. It is the only major professional sports team in the area.